

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7-10, 21, 24, 25, 27-30, 31, and 33 have been amended. Claims 11-20 and 32 have been canceled. Claims 1-10, 21-31, and 33 are now pending in this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

Claims 10 and 30 have been amended to correct typographical errors. The amendments to claims 10 and 30 have not narrowed the scope of these claims. Claims 1, 21, 31, and 33 have been amended for clarification.

Claims 4-9 and 24-29 stand rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 24, 25, and 27-29 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6 and 26 depend from claims 5 and 25, respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 10, 21-23, 30, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Takeuchi et al., US Patent No. 4,133,753 ("Takeuchi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention related to a method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample. The present invention is suitable for separating a sample having 53 amino acid elements. As amended, independent claims 1, 21, 31, and 33 each recite a method for analyzing a plurality of amino acids in a fluid sample by, *inter alia*, setting a lithium ion concentration in a buffer solution to no more than 0.3 mols/L until approximately a time when β -aminoisobutyric acid is eluted. This limitation is not

disclosed by Takeuchi. Unlike the present invention, Takeuchi relates to a method for separating a sample having 43 amino acid elements. While Takeuchi refers to a counter ion concentration of less than 0.3 mols/L (e.g., Table 2), Takeuchi is silent about the lithium ion concentration being no more than 0.3 mols/L until approximately a time β -aminoisobutyric acid is eluted. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 10-20 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takeuchi in view of Schneider, US Patent No. 3,649,203 ("Schneider"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, Takeuchi does not teach or suggest a lithium ion concentration of no more than 0.3 mols/L until approximately a time β -aminoisobutyric acid is eluted. Schneider does not supplement these deficiencies of Takeuchi. Instead, Schneider is cited for disclosing an amino acid analyzer. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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